

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AID-20

OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 IO-14 CU-05 EURE-00 /139 W

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O R 091438Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0461

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS PO MZ

SUBJ: REACTION IN METROPOLE TO EVENTS IN MOZAMBIQUE

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 0767 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: GOP OFFICIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS, SUPPLEMENTED BY
NEWSPAPER COVERAGE, ACKNOWLEDGE THAT SITUATION IN
LOURENCO MARQUES NOT YET UNDER CONTROL, BUT CLAIM THAT
PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES MASTERS OF SITUATION
ELSEWHERE IN MOZAMBIQUE. REBELLION VEHEMENTLY DENOUNCED,
LUSAKA ACCORD VIGOROUSLY ENDORSED ESPECIALLY BY
REFERENCE TO ACCORD'S RATIFICATION BY SPINOLA SEPTEMBER 8.
GOP COMMUNIQUE EMPHASIZE THAT POSITION OF WHITES TO
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BE PROTECTED AND THAT GOP AND FRELIMO COOPERATING

NOW TO RESTORE ORDER. END SUMMARY.

1. SERIES OF FOUR COMMUNIQUEES EMANATING FROM PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT REBEL FORCES ARE IN CONTROL OF RADIO CLUB OF MOZAMBIQUE AND THAT 200 PIDE/DGS AGENTS HAVE BEEN SPRUNG FROM MACHAVA PRISON. NEWS ACCOUNTS IN BOTH OF LISBON'S TWO MORNING DAILIES CARRY ACCOUNTS OF PRO-REBEL DEMONSTRATIONS BY THOUSANDS OF PERSONS, MOSTLY WHITE, PARADING THROUGH LM STREETS. REASON GIVEN FOR FAILURE OF ARMED FORCES TO PUT DOWN REBELLION IS DESIRE TO AVOID BLOODSHED. SECOND COMMUNIQUE FROM PM'S OFFICE SPOKE OF USE BY REBELS AT RADIO CLUB OF "HUMAN SHIELD" OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

2. THIRD COMMUNIQUE BY PM'S OFFICE STATED THAT, AS OF 1930 YESTERDAY (SEPT 8), GOP WAS ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT CALM ATMOSPHERE REIGNED ELSEWHERE IN MOZAMBIQUE AND THAT ARMED FORCES, ASSISTED BY POLICE, CONTROLLED ALL OTHER POPULATION CENTERS AS WELL AS FRONTIER AREAS.

3. WHILE INITIAL GOP COMMUNIQUE REFERRED TO REBELS AS "A REACTIONARY MINORITY OF MOZAMBIKAN POPULATION", LANGUAGE USED IN FOURTH (2330 SEPT 8) HAD HARDENED TO POINT OF DESCRIBING "EXTREMIST REACTIONARIES ... CRIMINAL POSITION". NEWSPAPERS HAVE USED SAME LANGUAGE IN CONDEMNING REBELS. DIARIO DE NOTICIAS, IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH RADIO CLUB OF MOZAMBIQUE, PUBLISHED EXCERPT FROM REBEL STATEMENT CONDEMNING FASCISM AND PROCLAIMING MOVEMENT'S DESIRE TO BUILD A DEMOCRATIC MOZAMBIQUE. NEWSPAPER IMMEDIATELY NOTED THAT SUPPOSEDLY "DEMOCRATIC" REBEL MOVEMENT HAD BEGUN BY LIBERATING PIDE AGENTS FROM PRISON. (COMMENT: IN CONTEMPORARY PORTUGAL, SUCH AN ACT AUTOMATICALLY "SPEAKS FOR ITSELF" -- PRESS AND MEDIA HAVE GIVEN PORTUGUESE PUBLIC IMPRESSION THAT NO CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY WAS TOO BASE FOR PIDE AGENTS TO COMMIT).

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4. TIMETABLE FOR CELEBRATING CONCLUSION OF LUSAKA ACCORD WITH FRELIMO APPARENTLY IS EITHER BEING ADHERED TO OR SPEEDED UP. FACT THAT PRESIDENT SPINOLA HAS APPROVED AGREEMENT SHARED NEWSPAPER FRONT PAGES WITH NEWS ON REBELLION. OFFICIAL TEXT ON SPINOLA'S ACTION MADE NO REFERENCE TO LOURENCO MARQUES DEVELOPMENTS, SPEAKING INSTEAD OF PRESIDENT'S HOPES THAT DECOLONIZATION POLICY IN PROGRESS WILL

DEVELOP "IN ORDER AND WITH DIGNITY" AND WILL LEAD TO CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN PORTUGAL, MOZAMBIQUE AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN AFRICA. HOWEVER, PRIME MINISTER'S THIRD COMMUNIQUE ON LOURENCO MARQUES SITUATION EMPHASIZED SPINOLA'S RATIFICATION OF LUSAKA AGREEMENT AS "ANOTHER HISTORIC STEP IN THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS". PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO REBELS WOULD SEEM TO BE THAT IF THEIR AIM WAS TO ENCOURAGE SPINOLA TO REVERT TO HIS PRIOR INSISTENCE ON PRE-INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM, THEY HAD NOT SUCCEEDED.

5. NEWSPAPERS ALSO GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO OFFICIAL SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENT WELCOMING CONCLUSION OF LUSAKA AGREEMENT.

6. LUSAKA ACCORD ALSO BEING CITED TO REASSURE WHITES THAT THEIR INTERESTS WILL BE PROTECTED IN FUTURE FRELIMO DOMINATED MOZAMBIQUE. PORTUGUESE RADIO HAS BROADCAST MESSAGE TO POPULATION OF MOZAMBIQUE ISSUED BY ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF COSTA GOMES. OF THREE POINTS MADE, FIRST WAS THAT LUSAKA ACCORD SAFEGUARDED BOTH PERSONS AND THEIR LEGITIMATE INTERESTS, AND THAT THERE COULD BE NO JUSTIFICATION FOR ALARMISM OR PRECIPITATE REACTIONS. MESSAGE'S SECOND POINT WAS THAT PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AND ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF REPUDIATED ANY ILLEGITIMATE ACTIONS IN MOZAMBIQUE WHICH COULD LEAD TO SOCIAL DIVISIONS AND FRATRICIDAL CONFLICT; AND THAT ARMED FORCES HAVE BEEN GIVEN ORDERS TO RESTORE ORDER IN LOURENCO MARQUES.

7. GOP ALSO EMPHASIZING THAT IT IS WORKING IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HARMONY WITH FRELIMO TO RESTORE ORDER. FOURTH COMMUNIQUE FROM PM'S OFFICE UNDERLINES "FIRM AND DIGNIFIED ATTITUDE" IN CRISIS BY FRELIMO PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL, WHO "HAS SOUGHT TO AVOID INTERVENTION BY HIS FORCES IN ORDER NOT TO BRING ABOUT SENSELESS BLOODSHED".

8. DIARIO DE NOTICIAS, IN CONTACT WITH NEWSMAN GUILHERME DE MELO AT LM NEWSPAPER NOTICIAS, ASKED WHO WAS BEHIND REBEL MOVEMENT. GUILHERME DE MELO REPLIED THAT SITUATION WAS CONFUSED, BUT THAT "DR. VELEZ GRILO, DR. PIRES MOREIRA, ABOVE ALL THAT GROUP THAT RECENTLY WENT TO THE METROPOLE" WAS INVOLVED. HE ADDED THAT MASSES OF YOUNG PEOPLE, (HIGH SCHOOL, NOT COLLEGE

AGE) WERE IN STREETS SUPPORTING REBELS. PERHAPS CONGEN
LM CAN PROVIDE INFO ON INDIVIDUALS NAMED AND CONCERNING GROUP
WHICH REPORTEDLY RECENTLY VISITED METROPOLE.

9. MOST SEVERE DENUNCIATION OF LM REBELS CAME FROM ARMED FORCES
MOVEMENT (AFM) COORDINATING COMMITTEE WHICH ISSUED COMMUNIQUE
VEHEMENTLY CONDEMNING IRRESPONSIBLE REACTIONARIES IN LM FOR "ACTS
OF HIGH TREASON AGAINST HIGHER INTERESTS OF PEOPLE OF MOZAMBIQUE
AND PORTUGAL".

10. COMMENT: LM REBEL GROUP MAY TAKE SOME CONFORT FROM FACT THAT
PRESIDENT SPINOLA HAS HIMSELF ISSUED NO RPT NO STATEMENT COMDEMNING
EVENTS. HOWEVER, THAT COMFORT MUST BE COLD IN VIEW FACT HE RATIFIED
LUSAKA ACCORD AND FACT ALL OTHER LISBON PRONOUNCEMENTS
HAVE BEEN CONDEMNATORY OF REBELS. MESSAGE IS PRESUMABLY GETTING
THROUGH TO REBELS THAT THEY CAN EXPECT NO HELP OR ACTIVE SYMPATHY
FROM METROPOLE.
SCOTT

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